

# The Five Shot Sequence

The five-shot method provides a method for applying basic shots to form a narrative pattern for visual storytelling.



1) **Hands** (tight shot): Look for a subject who is working with their hands and staying in one place. With a super-close shot of the hand action, you have something interesting to show at the beginning.



2) **Face** (tight shot): Who is performing the action we saw with the hands? An essential part of storytelling is to raise a question and then simply answer it.  
Question: Whose hands?  
Answer: This person, this face.



3) **Hands and face together** (medium shot): The next question in the viewer's mind is: What's going on here? A wider shot can answer that question very nicely. Note: Wider, but not truly wide.



4) **Over the shoulder** (medium shot): This shot does not always come out well because sometimes the camera operator gets too much shoulder or too much back of the head. But trying it helps us learn how to be patient, and sometimes we manage to get a very good shot from it.



5) **Alternative shot** (not a wide shot): After you've got the four shots above, work hard to come up with fifth and different angle on the same subject. It forces you to think creatively. Get low to the ground (see example) or stand on a table (for example) and shoot low.



